

BOOK NOTICE

CHARLES BOEWE (ed.). **A C.S. Rafinesque Anthology**. 2005. (ISBN 0-7864-2147-9, pbk.). McFarland & Company, Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640, U.S.A. (Orders: www.mcfarlandpub.com, 800-253-2187). \$45.00, 271 pp., 17 b/w figures, 7" × 10".

From the back cover.—"Among American naturalists, C.S. Rafinesque (1783-1840) is second only to Audubon in the popular interest he sustains. This interest is due in part to his colorful life and provocative personality, but he is also remembered for devising Latin scientific names for more plants than any other naturalists who ever lived—and a great number in the animal kingdom, as well. This passion for nomenclature has kept his name memorable (some would say notorious) among naturalists. Yet his taxonomic writings made up only a part of his extensive oeuvre."

There are at least six previous books on Rafinesque also edited by Charles Boewe. Rafinesque's essays covered in this volume are **1) Antiquities, 2) Linguistics, 3) Society, 4) Education, 5) Public Lectures, 6) Popular Science, 7) Phytogeography, 8) Natural Science, and 9) Metaphysics.**

A great fan of Rafinesque was the Canadian born botanist, Lloyd H. Shinnars (SMU) Ruth Ginsburg, in her 2002 biography, *Lloyd Herbert Shinnars: By Himself*, discusses Shinnars' admiration for Rafinesque. The following excerpt gives some insight into the life of Rafinesque and his influence on at least one botanist:

"Constantin Samuel Rafinesque was a naturalist, traveler, and writer. Born in Constantinople, he spent much of his youth in Italy and came to the United States in 1815. He was not trained in botany, but he read widely in several languages and became deeply interested in natural history, making important contributions to ichthyology as well as botany. Shinnars admired his wide knowledge, his voracious appetite for discovery and publication, and especially his courage in defending unpopular positions. Lack of diplomacy, organization, and understanding of their limitations were other characteristics that they shared."

If you enjoy reading about great naturalists then you will definitely enjoy Boewe's *A C.S. Rafinesque Anthology*.—Barney Lipscomb, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*